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Casey: No Prosecution After the Fact

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A Central Intelligence Agency Director William J. Casey, who said last week that five news organizations violated the law by publishing stories about U.S. communications interceptions, said yesterday that he does not favor prosecution after the fact.

In the future, however, the law should be enforced, Casey told the American Jewish Committee.

"Where there already has been public disclosure about communications intelligence," he said, "the law has been violated but the milk has been spilled.

"I would not, therefore, at this time favor action for these past offenses. But I strongly believe that if we are to protect our security as a nation and the safety of our cit-

izens in this age of international terrorism and intercontinental missiles, the law now on the books . . . dealing with communications intelligence, must now be enforced."

Casey objected to articles reporting that U.S. intelligence intercepted messages between the Libyan government and its People's Bureau in East Berlin before last month's bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by U.S. servicemen.

Casey said The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Washington Times and Time and Newsweek magazines should be prosecuted under a 1950 law that prohibits the publication of information about communications intelligence. The statute carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.
